

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3942

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04497

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, SHUM
SUBJECT: PRIORITY ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 124544

1. I WELCOME THE GUIDANCE IN REFTTEL HIGHLIGHTING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AMBASSADORS FOR DIRECTING THEIR MISSIONS' EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THIS AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST STRENGTHS. IT IS NOT ONLY RIGHT FOR US TO STRESS THE ISSUE; PROPERLY SET FORTH, IT CAN REDOUND TO OUR BENEFIT WORLD-WIDE AND, IN THE NATO CONTEXT, IT CAN BE ONE OF OUR STRONGEST WEAPONS AGAINST SOVIET DICTATORSHIP AND IMPERIALISM.

2. SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION THERE HAS BEEN KEEN INTEREST AT NATO IN US POLICIES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS. THE STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAVE STIMULATED AND MAINTAINED THIS INTEREST--WHICH WE HAVE NOTED PARTICULARLY IN OUR CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS--AND WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DRAW OUR COLLEAGUES' ATTENTION TO THESE STATEMENTS IN OUR INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THEM. MOREOVER, THE MARCH 17 NAC CONSULTATION ON EASTERN EUROPE FOCUSED DIRECTLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AND ALLIED
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REPRESENTATIVES WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE'S EXPLANATION OF US POLICIES.

3. OPERATIONALLY, WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED AT NATO IN DEVELOPING A DATA BASE AND COLLATING REPORTS ON PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA IN EASTERN EUROPE IN CONNECTION WITH ALLIANCE WORK ON CSCE SINCE THE HELSINKI MEETING.

POLADS EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA ON A REGULAR BASIS AND PREPARE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT FOR CONSIDERATION BY MINISTERS. THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OUR EMBASSIES IN EASTERN EUROPE HAVE BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE ALLIES.

4. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE GUIDANCE ON THE US AGENDA FOR ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROMISED REFTEL AND WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF US OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA. BENNETT

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